

## Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-05 /082 W  
----- 050896

R 091606Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 361

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2546

PARIS FOR MELONE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, MILI, ML, UV

SUBJ: MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE: VOLTANS CONTINUE

SEARCH FOR ARMS

REF: STATE 238379

1. IT IS ALSO OUR IMPRESSION THAT VOLTANS HAVE BY NOW  
RECEIVED MOST OF THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT THEY WERE LOOKING  
FOR. EMBASSY CANNOT IMAGINE WHAT VOLTAN ARMY WOULD DO  
WITH 20,000 M-16 RIFLES. STRENGTH OF VOLTAN ARMY IS NOW  
6000 MEN AND IS EXPECTED TO BE REDUCED SHORTLY TO 4000  
MEN. RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH MILITARY MEMBERS OF  
GOVERNMENT APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT GOUV IS FULLY CONFIDENT  
BORDER CONFLICT WILL BE DEFINITELY SETTLED IN NEAR FUTURE  
AT WHICH TIME VETERANS WHO WERE RECALLED LAST DECEMBER  
WILL BE DEMOBILIZED. WHY SHOULD GOUV, WHICH NORMALLY  
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OPERATES UNDER A VERY TIGHT BUDGET, SPEND AN ADDITIONAL

\$8 MILLION FOR ARMAMENTS AT THIS TIME? FURTHERMORE,  
GOUV KNOWS FULL WELL THAT PURCHASE OF M-16 RIFLES REQUIRES  
MUNITIONS CONTROL EXPORT LICENSE AND IF ADIRE NEED FOR  
SUCH WEAPONS HAD DEVELOPED RECENTLY, EMBASSY WOULD  
EXPECT GOUV TO MAKE ANOTHER OFFICIAL DEMARCHE TO USG.  
SINCE OUR REFUSAL TO ISSUE EXPORT LICENSE LAST FEBRUARY,  
NO GOUV OFFICIAL HAS MENTIONED TO US UPPER VOLTA'S NEED  
FOR ADDITIONAL ARMAMENTS, ALTHOUGH SOME HAVE REMARKED  
THAT WE HAD NOT BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO THEM IN THEIR HOUR  
OF NEED BUT THAT THEY HAD MANAGED SOMEHOW.

2. WE SUSPECT THAT THIS MAY BE A DELAYED REACTION ON  
PART OF THIS RETIRED FRENCH MILITARY OFFICER WHO MAY HAVE  
BEEN CONTACTED SOME MONTHS AGO BY MINISTER OF PLAN DAKOURE  
WHEN LATTER WAS IN EUROPE COORDINATING THE PURCHASE OF  
ARMS FOR VOLTAN ARMY. DAKOURE WAS ABSENT FOR A LONG TIME,  
BUT HE HAS BEEN BACK IN OUAGA FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS AND  
SEEMS TO BE PRESENTLY INVOLVED ONLY IN THE AFFAIRS OF HIS  
MINISTRY.

GRAHAM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**To:** STATE  
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